

No. R-1. Senate concurrent resolution honoring Barre Town Middle and Elementary School Co-Principal Dr. Theodore Rikken.

(S.C.R.1)
(SPECIAL SESSION)

By Senators Doyle, Cummings and Scott,

By Representatives Koch of Barre Town and McFaun of Barre Town,

Whereas, for the past 22 years, the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School community, including students, faculty, staff, and parents, has been fortunate to have Dr. Theodore Rikken as one of the school's two co-principals, and

Whereas, Dr. Theodore Rikken's educational philosophy focuses on how each student learns best and features a comprehensive teaching approach that recognizes the importance of both the core curriculum and classes in art, music, and physical education, and

Whereas, his focus on state-mandated action planning has improved the quality of Barre Town School's classroom offerings, and

Whereas, technological advances have played a major role at Barre Town Middle and Elementary School, and early on, students are taught computer literacy, including mastery of the keyboard, and

Whereas, the importance of reading is now emphasized at Barre Town Middle and Elementary School through a mandate that Dr. Theodore Rikken developed requiring each student to read 25 books, and

Whereas, Dr. Theodore Rikken is a proponent of using hands-on activities as learning tools, and he oversaw the development of a school vegetable

garden that has also introduced the students to healthy composting practices, making the concept of farm-to-school one with which they are well acquainted, and

Whereas, the success of the school's coordinated school health advisory council is in large measure due to his participation, and

Whereas, Dr. Theodore Rikken believes in the highest of grammatical standards for all involved in education, saying, "If a community cannot look to its school for perfect grammar, to whom can a community look?" and

Whereas, he maintains meticulous notes and records of his every interaction in order to serve each individual and the organization as a whole with the utmost efficiency, and

Whereas, students, teachers, boards, and the community have regularly benefited from his institutional memory on all matters of school life, and

Whereas, after over two decades of outstanding service as an outstanding education leader in Barre Town, Dr. Theodore Rikken will retire this spring, and everyone associated with the Barre Town Middle and Elementary School will miss his presence at the school, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly is pleased to honor retiring Barre Town Middle and Elementary School Co-Principal Dr. Theodore Rikken for his significant contributions to public education in Barre Town, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Dr. Theodore Rikken at Barre Town Middle and Elementary School.